

THE TALON

April 22, 1999

Avila College • 11901 Wornall Road • Kansas City, MO 64145 Volume VII, Issue 7

NEWS BRIEFS

Goppert Theater

The Robber Bridegroom, a musical by Alfred Uhry with music by Robert Waldman, opens tonight in Goppert Theater. The show runs April 22, 23, and 24 at 8 p.m. and April 25 at 2 p.m. For more information, see the story on page 10. To reserve seats, call the Theater box office at ext. 2299. The show is free to all Avila students.

Avila Choir

The Avila Choir will be singing at Leawood City Hall during a candlelight walk in honor of National Crime Victims Rights Week at 8 p.m. on April 25.

Thornhill Gallery

Me and the Boys, featuring the Chrisman family, continues in Thornhill Gallery until May 7.

Hooley-Bundschu Library

The library will be open extra hours the week before finals and the week of finals. They will stay open until midnight on May 2 - 6 and May 9 - 12. Hours are until 6 p.m. May 7, 8 and 14, and 9 p.m. on May 13.

Teacher Interview Day

On April 29, from noon to 4 p.m., there will be a teacher interview day held in the Ryan Sports Center on the Saint Mary College campus. Anyone wishing to participate in the interview day should contact Avila's Career Services Office by April 23.

Academic Advising

Academic advising for the Summer and Fall 1999 semesters continues for new and current students.

December Graduates

Graduation applications for December 1999 are due in the Registrar's office by April 30.

50th Anniversary

The Department of Nursing will celebrate their 50th anniversary with a reception on May 3 from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

Security Forum

The Student Senate is sponsoring an open forum on Avila security on April 26 from 5:15 to 5:50 p.m. in the Whitfield Conference Room.

Binge drinking continues to be an issue on college campuses

by RYAN GLASGOW

arts and entertainment editor

A familiar issue on most college campuses is alcohol. For many students, college is not only a place to learn, it is a place for partying. This often consists of consuming large amounts of alcohol at a local dance club, bar, friend's house or on campus.

In basic conversation, if asked if it is okay to drink, most traditional college students would answer 'yeah it's cool.'

A large percentage of people

responding with that answer are under 21 years old. Many of those that are over 21 are so accustomed to the standard practice of drinking

I have never been to a party where there was no drinking since I have been at Avila.
~A senior Avila student



at parties that they can hardly remember the last time they attended one without it.

This trend is an occurrence not only at big universities, it happens frequently at small schools as well.

For example, our own campus has a history of drinking at parties, even events such as Spring

Formal and Homecoming.

Since these events are usually off campus, there is an open cash bar where students of age can buy drinks.

Even though Avila has a policy against drinking in the residence halls, it still occurs on a regular basis.

"I have never been to a party where there was no drinking since I have been at Avila," a senior student said.

Whether or not to drink is a choice each person has to make themselves. There is another choice to make if someone decides to drink, and that is how much they drink.

A normal drinking habit called "binge drinking" happens on cam-



pus all across the map. Binge drinking is the term given to the way some people drink until they get sick, pass out or perhaps worse.

A trend now is often to drink as much as you can instead of having a social drink or two. Many Avila students, both residents and commuters, turn to binge drinking as something to do when they are bored. Several people cite the lack

continued on page 2

Avila's new eagle

New Avila mascot honors dedicated fan of Avila athletics

by CATHY FLINT

staff writer

After many years and many sweaty bodies, the old eagle mascot has retired. Avila is not going without a mascot though. A new eagle arrived at Avila searching for a home and a name.



Sister Anne Dominic is a very familiar face at Avila sporting events.

The mascot received both quickly with the help of Becky Evans in Student Affairs and the suggestions of the entire Avila community. It was decided that the mascot would be named Dominic, after Avila's most enthusiastic fan, Sister Anne Dominic Tassone, CSJ.

Many suggestions came in for the name of the eagle, including Raptor, Bob the Bald Eagle, Eddy, Ernest, Amelia, and Rocket. Even the students in the Montessori school got involved. They colored pictures of eagles and suggested names for the new mascot.

The winning suggestion of Dominic came from the staff of

the bookstore. They chose the name to honor Sister Anne's loyal support of all Avila's athletic teams for many years. They felt that naming the mascot would be a



Dominic the Eagle stands with its namesake, Sister Anne Dominic Tassone. photos by Brian L. Stuckey

wonderful tribute to someone who is always cheering on the Eagles on the court or the field.

"I am sure you will agree that there could not have been a more fitting tribute to Sr. Anne Dominic than that of the mascot that will cheer our teams to many victories in her name," Evans said.

Two mysterious people have been chosen to wear Dominic at events.



Spring Fling

Avila celebrates Spring Fling. Pages 6-7



Eagles Sluggers

Avila Eagle baseball and softball teams approach the close of their seasons. Pages 8-9



Goppert Theater

The Robber Bridegroom opens in Goppert Theater. Page 10

RESPECT LIFE: Sister Fran Maher

by KATE SCHOENBERGER
staff writer

Country line dancing.

That's right, every Friday night you will find Sister Fran Maher at Saint Joseph's Health Center booting and scooting and boogying the night away. "Other sisters and I usually go out to eat and then fulfill our evening with country dancing," Sister Fran said. "It seems to complete our week."

Sister Fran, Admissions Director and Adviser for Avila's Advantage program, has worked at Avila since 1994. Sister Fran previously taught

math and theology at Bishop Hogan High School for 25 years. She has worked in other cities including Chicago; Peoria, Ill.; Waco, Texas; and Denver.

Denver is one of her favorite vacationing spots. "I have many friends to visit, and I love the mountains," Sr. Fran said. Her summer plans are to attend the GATE Program in Mexico City. The GATE acronym stands for "Global Awareness Through Experience." It allows participants to experience a third world country through education and reflection.

Sister Fran's calling for the religious service came when she was in high school. "The interaction

between sisters influenced me and also my own blood sister, who entered the convent three years prior to me." She said she finds the new model of women in the church is exciting. "I am currently living with a sister who does all of the pastoral work for a parish and also is the administrator. This shows you how roles of women have changed in the church over years."

Fidelity to regular prayer, living in community with one who shares common values, and service to others is how Sister Fran defines dedication to religion. She puts a special emphasis on taking life-strengthening stands, "Everyone should respect life — whether the issue is abortion, capital punishment, or euthanasia; it should be respected. We need to stand with the ones who don't have what we have," she said.



OUT OF HABIT: Sister Marie Tucker

by TERRELL TIGNER
staff writer

"I never think about the things that need to be given up to become a sister," These are the words of Sister Marie Tucker. Sr. Marie has been at Avila College for 10 years and now works in the Sisters of St. Joseph Development Office.

Sr. Marie said she wanted to give her life to the Lord and that being a Sister has been a dream of hers since her high school days. "That was a long time ago," Sr. Marie said with a smile. "But actually one of the sisters of my high school inspired me to become a sister myself." The words of Sr. Marie paint an amazing picture of the woman she admired. "She was a very intelligent woman and you could just see her undying love for the Lord. The only thing that didn't attract me was the habit she had to wear," Sr. Marie said.

Back then, a habit was a required uniform. Now Sr. Marie sits here, on a warm Sunday afternoon inside of the convent, in a white blouse and blue skirt. "Times have definitely changed. I stopped wearing my veil about four years ago, but I

Times have definitely changed. I stopped wearing my veil about four years ago, but I tried to hold on.
~Sr. Marie Tucker

tried to hold on," said Sr. Marie, who said the thickness of her hair made her think she was still wearing her veil even after she stopped.

"I have respect for people and their religion," Sr. Marie said about the religious diversity on campus. "I once had a student who wanted

me to become a Muslim," Sr. Marie said with a chuckle.

No longer a teacher, Sr. Marie taught English in Northern, Mich. then returned to her native Kansas City to teach English at St. Theresa's High School. After that she went on to work at a retirement home.

The Sisters of St. Joseph Development Office is not the only work that Sr. Marie does these days. She is also a companion to an elderly woman who lives about 15 minutes from campus. "She is all alone. I'm her friend, and I help her get around on a daily basis," Sr. Marie said while eating a bagel and drinking coffee.

Sr. Marie later apologized for eating during our interview, but there was no need to do so. People like Sr. Marie, who dedicate their lives to God and others, deserves a satisfying snack. That way, she will have the energy to continue her prosperous life. Maybe now, for some young person, she is playing the role of the woman to whom she looked up.

MODERN WOMAN: Sister Ruth Stuckel

by KELLY NIEMIEC
staff writer

"I am personally convinced that the church is sexist. It's male dominated," Sister Ruth Stuckel said.

In appearance, Sr. Ruth seems quiet, soft-spoken and gentle. However, as soon as she opens her heart and her feelings, she reveals a woman with modern practices and emotions.

Sr Ruth is able to see the church for what it is, because she has been involved with the church since girlhood.

Based on a challenge received by a nun while she was in the sixth grade, Sr. Ruth continued her visits to church, thereby guaranteeing a closer walk with the Lord. "I started to experience a personal relationship with God," she said.

Developing this relationship

through the 1960s, she was able to see many changes in the church.

However, one change that has not occurred is equality among the men and women. She says this struggle for equality has been going on since 300 A.D.

"Many women were prophets, but Paul would put the clamp on them," Sr. Ruth said.

The church has been slowly improving, but Sr. Ruth believes that it is still a lot like the business world and still based on the 'good old boy' network. If the 'good old boy' networking of the church could change, then maybe it would create a sort of chain reaction, circulating out into the business world, Sr. Ruth said.

For her, the solution is to clearly define a goal for the church.

"The goal is to have a discipleship of equals," she said. "When we were baptized, we were all made in the image of God, with

God's spirit."

When we weigh out a person's equality, it should be measured by the gifts that we have, not the gender that we are, Sr. Ruth said.

"I will never see this change in my lifetime. To have this type of equality means that both women and men have to change and recognize each other as equal partners," she said.

Although the scales seem tipped to a patriarchal advantage, Sr. Ruth's faith in the church continues to be unwavering. No matter what, she still loves the church. Never allowing hate to enter her heart, she takes her feelings quickly to prayer.

What is in store for the patriarchal

church is unknown, but Sr. Ruth said, "The strongest call is to love one another, so I have to keep loving these men while they keep making sexist remarks, but while I keep loving them, I will keep working against the patriarchy."



L A' S of God

ONE DAY AT A TIME: Sister Olive Louise Dallavis

by JANIE VOGL
and LEAH MOORE
staff writers

Wrapped up in a tiny package lies a woman with the energy of a 19-year-old and wisdom that can only be attained through a life full of living. This woman is Sister Olive Louise Dallavis. She has been an ever-present figure at Avila for 47 years.

Sr. Olive has seen many changes over the years. She is celebrating her 60th year of working in the field of education. She has spent 10 years in elementary education, 10 in secondary and higher education, 25 in administration and 14 in the

advancement office.

The daughter of Italian immigrants, Sr. Olive received her calling to become a nun as a young person. She met a nun whom she admired greatly and longed to do the same type of work.

Since that decision many years ago, she has been living the life she dreamed of, working to help others.

During her work at St. Thomas Aquinas elementary school, she taught first graders how to read. She is very excited to recall the work she did there. By the time the students left her class, they were reading on the fourth and fifth grade levels. Sr. Olive takes pride in the fact that she taught so many students to read. Some of her old pupils still write her letters or tell her how happy they are that she was their teacher.

In 1960-61 when college tuition was only

\$300 a semester, Sr. Olive was appointed Dean of Students and Acting President. At that time she was completing her doctoral dissertation. Avila considers her to be such an integral part of it that the communication building carries her name, 'Dallavis.'

Her current work at Avila is in the advancement office. This has allowed her to raise the value of the philanthropic dollar.

During her spare time Sr. Olive likes to read and travel. She has been to Europe, Asia, South America, and Alaska. She hopes to someday visit Africa where missionary friends have set up hospitals in a part of the country.

Sr. Olive supports missionaries and the pro-life movement. She is also interested in the care of the aging and visits geriatric homes.

"I try to help the patient, but also participate in the making of policy for the aging," she said.

Sr. Olive takes "one day at a time," and is thankful for each day she has to spend helping others.



DEAR NEIGHBOR: Sister Marie Joan Harris

by SHEILA A. STEVENSON
and KRISTEN REESE
staff writers

The first known published document of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet was dated 1650. Six sisters who wanted to reach out to their little French town not only read the scriptures but lived by them, especially Matthew 19:19: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." This became their "Dear Neighbor" philosophy.

These sisters were risk takers, not separating themselves from their community and remaining cloistered, as was common for women of that period, and by adopting the dress of the local widows. They were also trendsetters, working with prostitutes to train them to support themselves economically by making lace.

Lace making through the centuries has been one of the sisters' means of financial support. Even today, the lace is a signature of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet, and it decorates the borders of many Avila College posters.

Nine sisters live on campus and three live off campus. The number of sisters living and working at Avila might be surprising, as their presence is not readily noticeable. This is due in part to Vatican Two, when the Church re-examined their roots and removed barriers that might keep people from

approaching the Church and its servants. The mode of dress for the sisters has changed from the early 1900s traditional habits, which showed a sign of commitment, but at times were thought a barrier between the sisters and the public. Adopting the dress of their local community helped the sisters to remove barriers.

Sister Marie Joan Harris, Avila Vice President and Academic Dean since 1987, has been a part of the Avila community since 1970 when her community supported her acceptance of an open teaching position. Sr. Marie went from part-time faculty to full time chemistry teacher and on to Vice President and Academic Dean.

In the past two decades Sr. Marie has witnessed many changes at Avila. The most visible is the diversity of students, including the female to male ratio (in 1970 Avila became coed), and the growing number of different ethnic groups attending college.

Although Sr. Marie's responsibilities as Academic Dean afford her the opportunity to build a greater connection with both administration and faculty, they leave her little time to enjoy those hobbies that enable her to relax. Sr. Marie once considered herself an avid jogger, but now she relaxes with a good book and the company of friends.

Although the administrative function of Avila policy does not have to be presented to the church, there

are those issues of the '90s that Sr. Marie feels an institution of higher learning should address. "Coming together and talking about what people have held as truths and perceptions, everyone walks away from here (Avila) transformed by that experience," said Sr. Marie.

Other changes Sr. Marie has noticed through the years is that in the '70s, students normally applied to Avila with a minimum of recruitment. In the '90s, Avila has had to take a more active recruitment position to reach out to those students interested in attending college.

One thing Sr. Marie says has not changed over the years is the commitment of Avila's values. Avila College is a value-based community of learning, Catholic, coeducational, and sponsored by the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet. In a climate respecting the worth and dignity of each individual, the college provides liberal arts, professional, undergraduate and graduate education for student's responsible life-long contributions to the contemporary

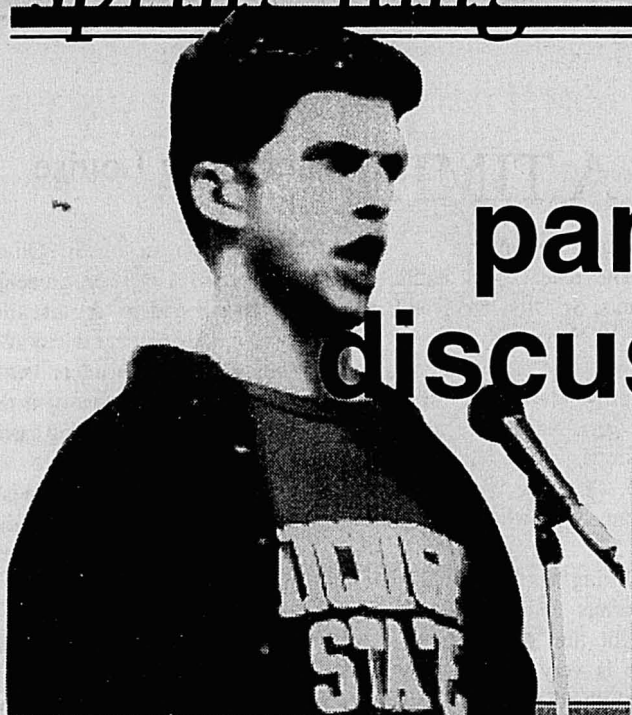
world. Avila has always maintained an atmosphere of personal attention to its students and mutual respect between faculty and students.

Sr. Marie said, "Avila College has an important mission...(we) need people committed to its (Avila's), values to carry it out...Through higher education it is a chance to make a difference in society."

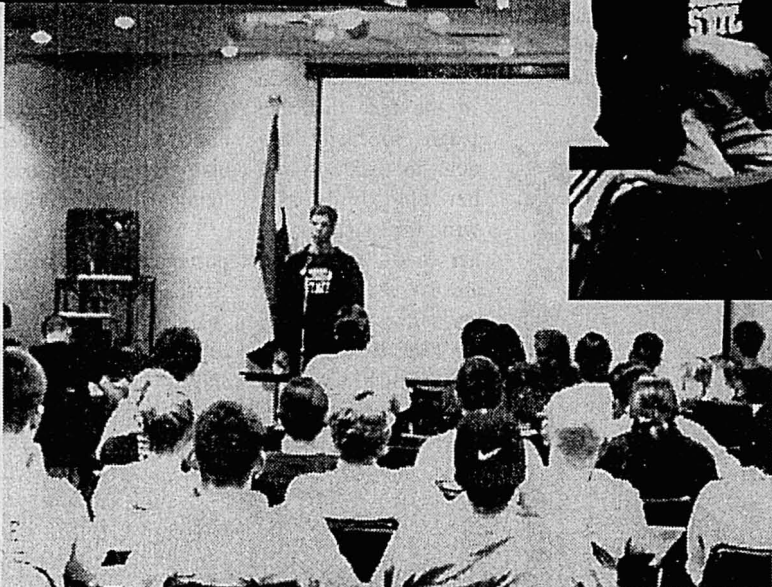
From the six sisters of the 1650s helping people to help themselves, to Sister Marie Joan Harris, Vice President and Academic Dean of Avila College 1999...the "Dear Neighbor" philosophy continues to live on.



spring fling



panel
discussion



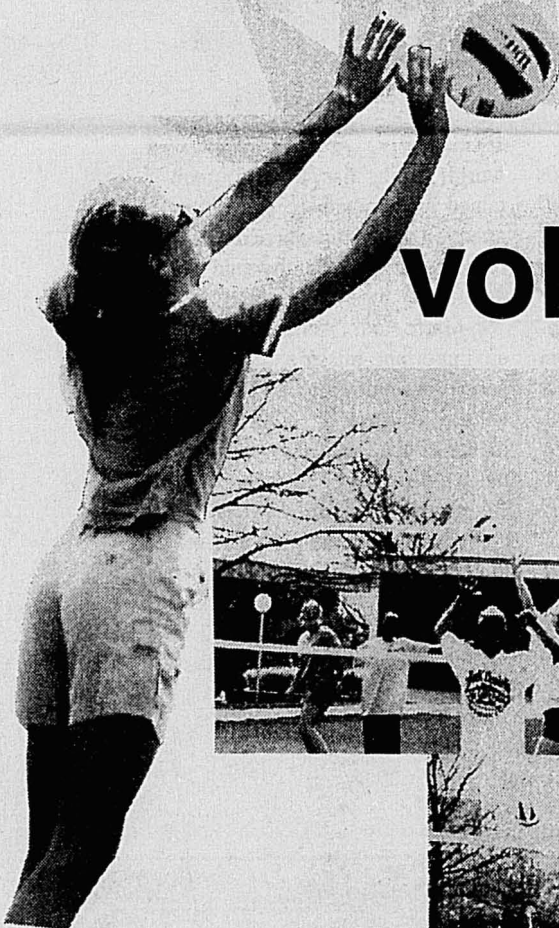
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Avila's annual spring fling celebration was held Thursday and Friday, offering many opportunities for students to get involved.

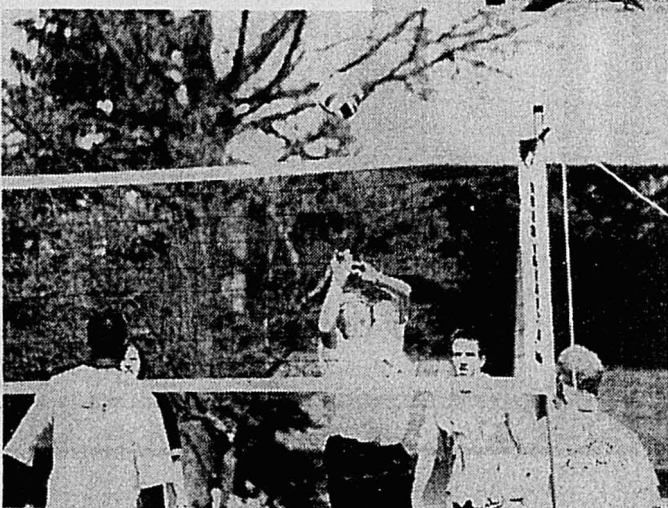
A panel discussion featuring Dan from MTV's *Real World* took place Tuesday night, while volleyball in the quad on Wednesday. Students had a chance to have some fun in the sun.

Kami Johnson came away a winner from the Talent Show for the second consecutive year. Terrell Tigner and Kari Donnell took home the awards.

Friday brought many activities, including the Senate's food-based obstacle course and RHA's picnic. Students had chances to get dirty before the dance. The week ended with a night away at the Arcadian Theater on Friday night.



volleyball



talent show



Spring Fling

carnival

held the week of April 5 - 9. The week involved and have fun.

's *Real World* sparked discussion on Wednesday offered students a

the Talent Show for the second con- took home the second and third place

the carnival and the Spring Formal. 's pie toss offered students plenty of week concluded with students dancing day night.



spring formal



A late start

by CJ HARLE
staff writer

The Avila men's baseball team has made a strong surge in the past few weeks, winning 13 of their last 15 home games, showing the characteristics of being the best in their conference.

"The team has turned the page as of late," Assistant Coach Ryan Howard said. "We turned around what started out as a mediocre season and turned it into a contending year." Many teams have fallen victim to Avila's

late start. Conference foe Bartlesville Wesleyan, Rockhurst and Bellevue (which is ranked 1st) have been at the losing end of Avila's rally.

Coming on strong late in the season for the Eagles has been Andy Diaz. However, Diaz's 33-game hitting streak ended, along with Avila's winning streak, as the Eagles fell to Kansas Newman.

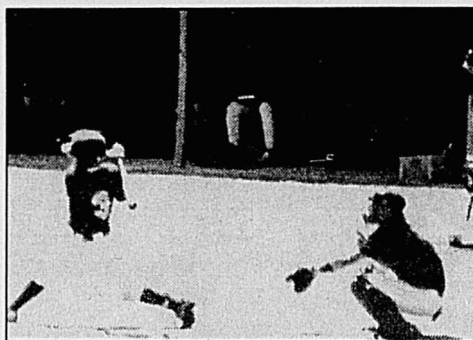
However, Avila will have a chance to get revenge on Kansas Newman.

The Eagles will be heading into two tough conference games against The College of the Ozarks and Peru State.

Senior first baseman, Pat Cornejo said, "We couldn't have asked for a better time to turn it

around. We are looking forward to the conference tournament."

The conference tournament starts May 6 in Wichita, Kan. If you are interested in supporting the Eagles during conference play, check postings in the Avila gym for game times.



photos by: (left and above) Karen Guber; (below) Brian L. Stuckey



SENIOR spotlight

Jason Albright

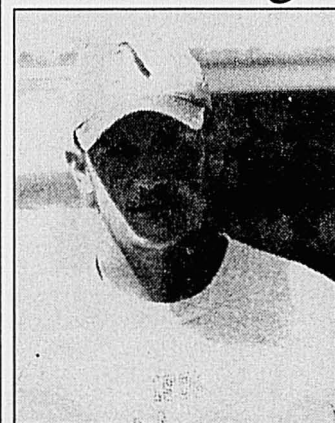


photo courtesy of Community Relations

Avila baseball player looks to graduation and the future

by KRISTI CLORE
sports editor

If you had one class to choose as your favorite, which one would it be? Most people would pick one that would be fairly easy, but this issue's senior chose Abstract Algebra. This senior also plays baseball, and, if given the chance, would love to continue his baseball career at the next level. He feels that realistically he will be working for the United States Department of Agriculture after graduation in July.

This senior's full name is Jason Edward Albright. Albright was born on Aug. 29, 1977 and is majoring in Mathematics at Avila. He has been playing baseball for 18 years and recalls his funniest sports memory happening two years ago while the Avila baseball team was in Florida. He stated, "Bob Huber pitched a great ball game one day, and the next morning we had an early ball game. Well, we are getting ready to leave on the bus and someone says, 'Where's Bob Huber?' Kampy and I run up to his room to get him up so he wouldn't get in trouble, and Bob gets out of bed and runs to the bus in boxers. It was cold that morning and Bob was sitting at our game struggling in boxer shorts. He finally bummed some clothes from everyone after about an hour outside."

Albright likes spending time with fiancée, Corey, and his dog, Dobey. He also likes hanging out with teammates and friends, fishing and going on roadtrips. Albright has two younger sisters, Hillary, 15, and Bethney, 12.

Albright will be getting married on July 10 of this year.

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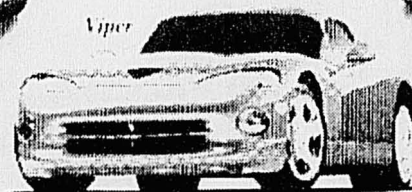
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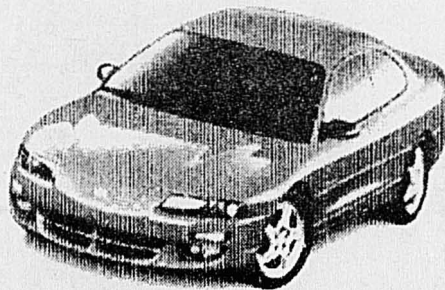
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Ram Quad Cab



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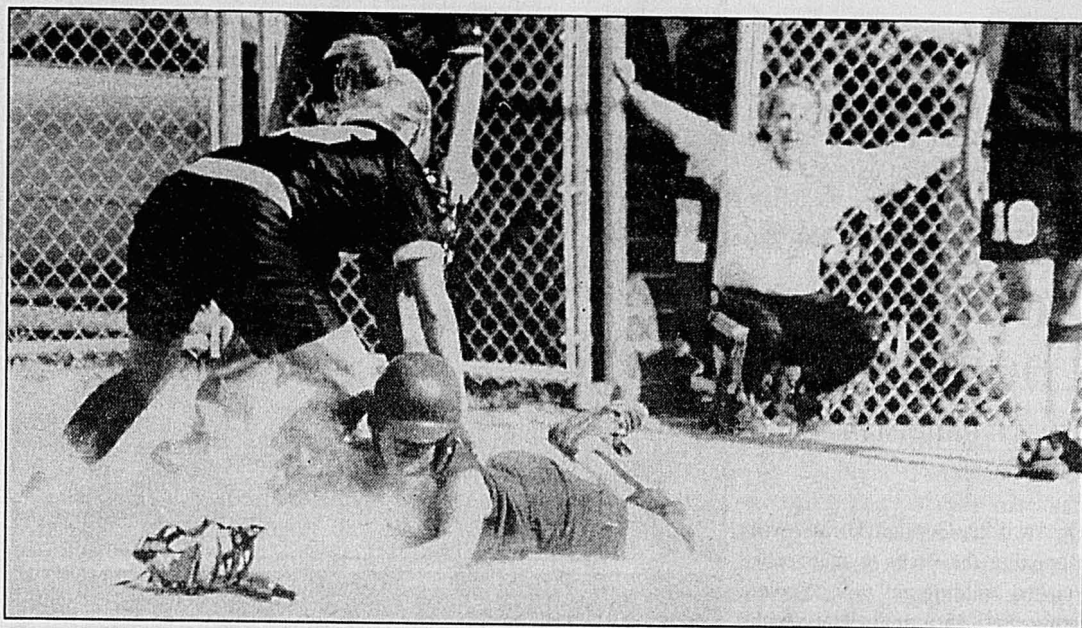
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Lady Eagles face setbacks

by KRISTI CLORE
sports editor

The Avila women's softball team has had a very up and down season. Starting off the season strong gave many fans hope that the Lady Eagles could have a golden year. The team travelled to Fort Myers, Fla. in March, and, continuing to rack up wins, they returned with a positive outlook for the rest of the season. However, after Florida, the Eagles have struggled to stay on top, with a record just above .500.

Team co-captain Julie Turner has helped keep the team thinking positively. Pitcher Jamie Hanneman said, "As far as leadership, we really look to Julie Turner. She has been here four years and is a great player."

Hanneman, a senior this year majoring in elementary education, is also

a team leader. She first started out at Missouri Valley College where she received All-Conference her freshman year, then moved on to William Woods University. Hanneman decided to transfer to Avila where she was Honorable

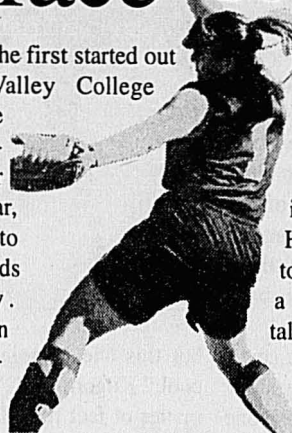
Mention (softball) her junior year and now leads the conference in strike outs. Hardships this season have put a damper on the Eagles. Lack of practice and defensive problems have eroded their performance. Adding to the problems, assistant coach Ben Keech was fired a week ago.

The Eagles are looking to overcome

their problems and show their strength again as the season nears completion.

"Our record doesn't show it, but we are really good," Hanneman said. "We need to practice more and work as a team; we all have a lot of talent."

The Eagles will be preparing for the conference tournament at the end of the month.



photos by Brian L. Stuckey

CAMPUS TALK

by EMMA-MAI HARRIS

staff writer

Why is attendance low at home games? How can we get more people to come out to the games?



Tekia Thompson-women's soccer

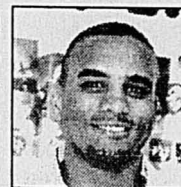
"I think that people come out to see the innings. The game is too long and a lot of the time people don't want to sit through the entire game."

Mike Crozier-Athletic Director

"There are too many activities going on in the Kansas City area that students are involved in. Most of the people that come to the games are parents of the athletes."

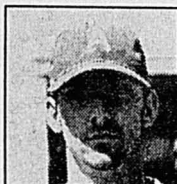
Terrell Tigner-men's basketball

"The athletic program at Avila is too small, and people do not think we have any competition. Another reason is conflict with class schedule. Lots of students are in class during the games."



Beth Basler-softball

"People don't know when the games are played. If they had the schedule, they would come out to watch the game. Most people are not going to go out of their way and go to the gym to pick up a schedule. If the schedule is posted on bulletin boards, people might show up at the games."



Matt Kamphoefner-baseball

"Lots of people live off-campus, and when they leave, they are not going to come back to watch a game."

Jessica Agnelly-student

"I think if we have a concession stand people will come out to the games."

Sr. Ann Dominic Tassone-instructor

"I always had interest in sports, and I love going out there and supporting the students at their games. As for how to get a great turnout to the games, I cannot tell you."



Mary Quarando-women's soccer

"If we had night games and the field was lit, I think people will show up to the games."



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ROSSANA's *Fashion Sense* FEATURING: Ben Chai



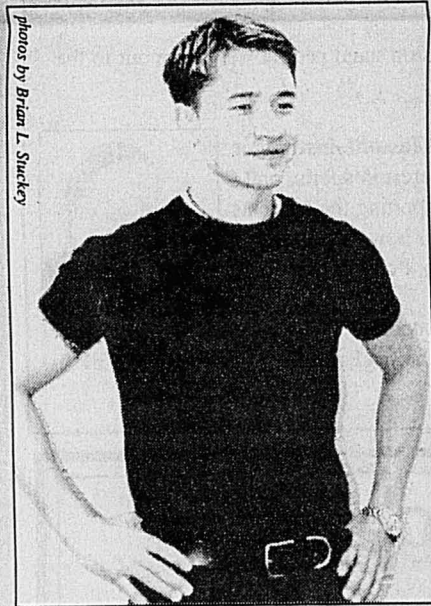
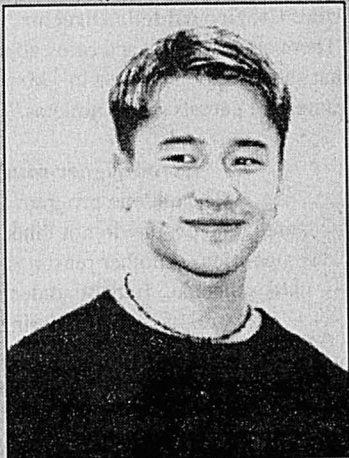
A class clown at heart, this sophomore Marketing major brightens up his Mass Media and Society class every session. Occasionally wearing soccer gear on his off days, as he is an avid soccer player, Ben Chai captures the essence of Generation X by changing clothing styles depending on the mood he is in. Wanting to know what it is like being Malaysian, French, and Irish and going to college in the Midwest, I asked a few questions.

Rossana: What do you consider your fashion style to be?

Ben: I wear everything and anything. You can't label a certain style because everyone has their own. I'm usually not in the mood to dress up. So I have three types of clothing: there's the trendy clothes for dress up, there's the casual clothing for everyday wear, and then there's the sports clothing for off days. My mood shows in my outfit.

R: What's the trendiest outfit you've ever worn?

B: Where I grew up, cowboy boots with jeans or wrestling shoes with jeans is the norm. Nobody really cares about clothes. I didn't like that, so I used to tight roll my jeans in the seventh grade. Everybody did—you can't laugh about it because you did it too! When the rap duo Kris Kross was popular, I used to wear my pants backwards. One more thing. My mom's a hair stylist, and she used to practice new styles and stuff on me. She once permed my hair and it looked like I had an afro. It was scary. I now have my own hair stylist.



photos by Brian L. Stuckey

R: What's your favorite store to shop at?

B: In case you weren't aware, I come from a very small town in Missouri called Harrisonville. It's really a suburb of Kansas City. Anyhow, there aren't many places to shop there. When I was younger, it didn't matter because my mom bought all my clothes and dressed me anyway. Now that I've moved to the "big" city, I have been able to vary my clothing a bit more. All my clothes are a mixture of things. I have a walk-in closet and there's still not enough room for all my clothes to fit in it!

R: In that case, where do you shop?

B: My favorite mall to go to is Oak Park Mall, but I can also shop at thrift stores. J. Crew is one of my favorite stores. I have a lot of their wool sweaters. The quality is really good. I can find something in practically every store that I walk into.

R: If you have any fashion dislikes, can you share them with us?

B: Of course. I don't hate anything. I like plain clothes without any designs. No patterns! I stick to black, gray, and white. They're basic colors and go with everything. Also, I don't like it when girls dress up, and then they say they're uncomfortable in what they're wearing. Then they change. Then that outfit isn't good enough. Then they change again because they don't like the next outfit because the color isn't right or something like that. It's crazy.

R: I meant stuff about guys. That stuff is for another column completely!

B: Sorry. Well, nothing really bothers me much about guys. Everyone has their own style—I don't pick people apart. I believe in what makes you feel good.

Robber Bridegroom opens tonight in Goppert Theater

by KEITH HARDIMAN
staff writer

On April 22, Goppert Theater will be opening the doors to their once tarnished building and will be celebrating their 25th anniversary with *The Robber Bridegroom* by Alfred Uhry and Robert Waldman, adapted from the novella of Eudora Welty.

Two of Avila's alumni, Rick Truman and Elizabeth Moran, will be directing and choreographing this blue grass pickin' musical. Director Rick Truman is a local actor and director who also does work for the UMKC box office. Elizabeth Moran is assistant professor at the University of Northern Colorado, and she has flown back twice to do this piece.

"We have a great energetic cast," Truman said. "It's not an easy show because it's so creative. Everyone has to put their ideas on certain aspects of the play.

This show is different from 10 years ago due to this play is done in the style it was written. This play is very presentational and a more imaginative and creative piece of work."

This play will be different from other recent Avila shows due to the wild characters, scenery and music.

The villain in the musical, Little Harp, is played by senior Paul Kilgore. "I didn't see the first one,



but this one is going to be pretty cool," Kilgore said. "It will be fun, matter of fact it will be better than *Cats*."

GOPPERT THEATER

Another major character in the show is a viscous-eyed disheveled stepmother named Selome. Freshman Robin Harper will be playing this role. "I think that it's going to be great.

Rick and Lauri have worked hard," Harper said.

Charlene Gould, Director of Theater, said, "If you're looking for a lot of fun and excitement, this is the show to be at. This show is silly and different but in a good way."

What makes this show unique is that the lead woman's role, Rosalind, is being played by Kara Fish, a junior from Shawnee Mission West High School.

The cast and crew hope that everyone will come out and show their support.



photos by Brian L. Stuckey

Mike Muller's

book

American Psycho

This psychotic thriller by Bret Easton Ellis will knock your socks off. *American Psycho* is set in the '80s in Manhattan, focused around a man who works on Wall Street, earns a six figure salary, and is constantly being asked if he is a model. There is only one problem. Patrick Bateman lives his life and expresses himself through torture, murder, and horrifying manipulation.

The entire book is based around one person born with money and making more living out his own American Dream. Bateman has a beautiful, shallow girlfriend named Evelyn, an attractive secretary named Jean (who is obsessed with him), a friend, Luis, who is trying to proclaim his love for him, Luis' incredible girlfriend Courtney, and a laundry list of escorts, strangers, and others whom he brutally murders at various times throughout the story.

Bret Easton Ellis brings us other books such as *The Informers*, *The Rules of Attraction* and *Less Than Zero*, which was made into a movie in the late 1980s starring Andrew McCarthy and Robert Downey, Jr.

American Psycho has been talked about for several years in Hollywood and there is supposed to be a crew adapting a script and beginning filming over the past two years.

There is no definite end to the book. That is why the phrase "This is not an exit" appears throughout the book several times.

★★★★★

film

The Matrix

This futuristic adventure takes the viewer on a unique trip through time and dimensions with incredible visual effects. The stunts, the effects, and most of the cast provide a truly memorable movie going experience. Keanu Reeves, who plays a program writer for a respectable software company, is also guilty of every computer crime there is. Apparently other computer geniuses have figured out what the matrix is, and Reeves has reached the level of intelligence needed to understand that type of information. He is then contacted by Laurence Fishburne and instructed on how to survive while being chased by "the agents." Then, throughout the rest of the movie, Reeves is trained to use the matrix and all that may entail.

The first 30 minutes or so is some explanatory dialogue and storyline to setup the rest of the movie. After that, it is a non-stop visual trip. The only criticisms I have of the movie are that some of Reeves' moments were a little sloppy, and at times the scripting became soap-opera like. Overall, a must-see in the theaters. ★★★★★

club

Roadhouse Ruby's South

Roadhouse Ruby's is the closest dance club/bar to Avila College. It is the only club establishment within the Kansas City metropolitan area that allows people under the age of 21 in. Therefore, Roadhouse Ruby's is attracting people from ages 18+ from all over the Kansas City area. The next closest place for such an evening out would be Lawrence or Warrensburg.

Throughout my three years here, the cover charge for the under 21 crowd has risen from \$7 to presently \$13. The cover charge for 21 and over has risen \$3 to \$6. The other negative aspect of this club is the fact that if you get there after 11 p.m. you may not be able to get in. They have been filling up over the past few months and not letting anyone else in after a certain capacity which is usually reached around 11 p.m. or midnight. This is especially bad news for the under-21 crowd, since there is usually a longer line for that group.

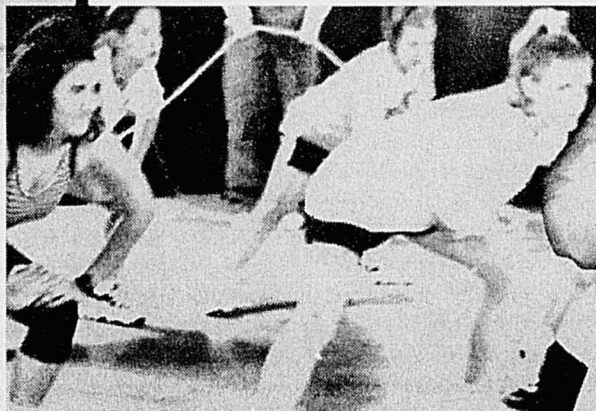
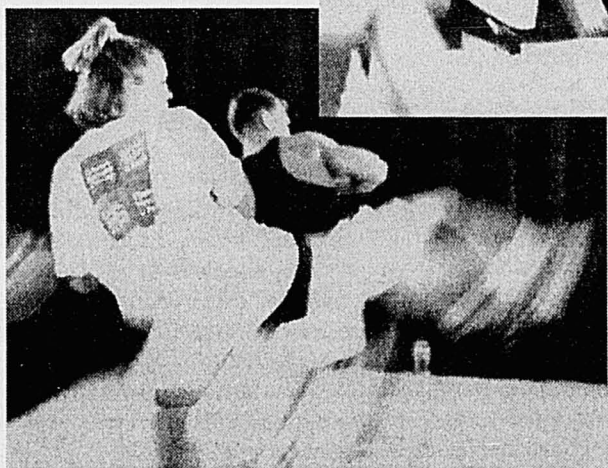
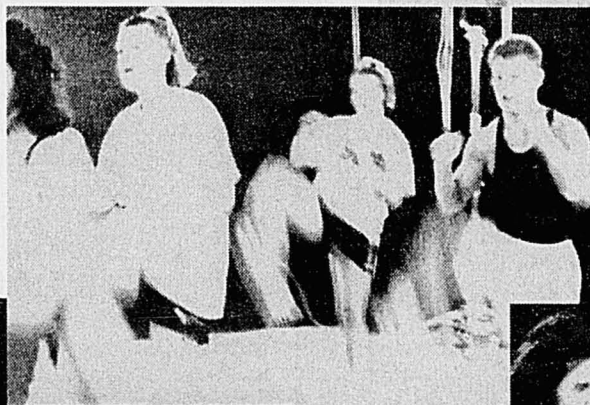
There are several positive aspects about the club if you can get in, don't mind the cover charge, and don't mind not having much room to move. The music is generally very good and the environment is relatively safe. There are not many fights that break out, and there are always police patrolling outside at closing time to prevent drunk driving, fights, or anything else. Drink prices are comparable to most other bars and clubs in Westport, Martin City, and Lawrence.

★★★

Review just about Anything

TAE - BO

Tae Bo and Avila Studios collided last Friday, Apr. 16. Aerobics instructor Kristi Sweeney taught a 45-minute class in Avila's television studio that aired live on channel seven. Nine people, including communication professor Ben Meade, took the challenge to sweat on TV. The Introduction to Media Production class put together the event.



photos by Brian L. Stuckey

Intolerant and armed with the Bible

Panel discussion sparks heated comments about homosexuals and religion

by **TERRI STUBBLEFIELD**
regular columnist



Sometimes so much ignorance abounds that it's all I can do to contain myself and my pen. Hardly a day goes by that I am not utterly offended and disgusted at the world we live in. How people can justify their hate and intolerance because they perceive something to be sinful, based on their own or another's interpretation of Bible scripture is beyond me. I just don't get it.

On April 6, I attended the Gay and Lesbian Panel Discussion, sponsored by 10 senior Social Work students. Three brave individuals stood in front of a room full of people and shared some of their life experiences as a gay man and lesbian women.

Judging from some of the questions posed to the panel, mostly directed to Dan, it was evident that very little fact and a lot of fears, fantasies, and fiction continue to plague people's perceptions about sexual orientation. What's more, I was appalled and frightened after reading the anonymous written responses given on a campus survey also initiated by the Social Work students. It was some of those written responses that prompted the students to coordinate a panel discussion.

One of the survey questions asked: "What do you think would change attitudes about homosexuals?"

You could be attending church with the person who wrote that "killing homosexuals slowly with a fork" would change attitudes. Or what about the person who wrote that all homosexuals should be beaten to death, or put on an island and blown up. There were many references to the morality of homosexuality. Someone stated "I have a good Christian background and follow the golden rule; maybe society should enforce that." Another wrote, "It says in the Bible that it's wrong and if you do it you will go to Hell." And yet another believes "If they gave themselves to Jesus they wouldn't lust after the same sex."

While there were a tremendous number of positive thoughts stated, the violence and intolerance seemed to overshadow all the rest.

And so it seemed with panel discussion as well. The majority of people in the room listened without openly passing judgment. But then there were those who, showing a total lack of respect for the panel

members, could not refrain from expressing their own hateful misconceptions, spewing out Bible scripture like rounds from an Uzi.

One student, arriving late and completely missing Dan's brief life summary, boldly told Dan that God made Adam and Eve. He didn't make two Adams or two Eves and then proceeded to ask Dan why he was even speaking at a Catholic college, and wasn't it disrespectful to be doing so. Another yelled out, "Have you read the Bible?" And an Avila staff member asked if homosexuality wasn't just about lust and living out a fantasy, like men wanting to sleep with two or three women.

See what I mean? Ignorance is everywhere, even at an institution of higher education. Audience and survey responses also raise several interesting points. Not the least of which are the myths surrounding sexual orientation.

Again with my mission thing, but a review of the facts are in order.

1. Sexual orientation is not a choice. How does one choose to be one way or another? Is it really logical to believe that a sexual relationship alone could be the sole motivation to subject oneself to life long public torment, discrimination, and sometimes fatal physical violence? The fact is, there is simply no evidence to support the assertion that people can choose their sexual orientation.

2. One individual cannot influence another person's sexual orientation. No one can make someone 'turn gay.'

3. Homosexuals are not any more lust filled, perverted, or promiscuous, with or without Jesus in their hearts, than anyone else. Gay people seek to be in loving, committed, monogamous relationships just like everyone else.

4. Sexual orientation does not impede one from having and practicing a religious faith. Homosexuals can be as close to, or as far away from, God as anybody else. There are lesbian nuns, straight atheists and everything in-between.

5. You cannot tell a person's sexual orientation by the way they look. There is not one single universal characteristic. There are gay athletes, teachers, plumbers, filmmakers, doctors, lawyers, beggars, and thieves.

6. The AIDS virus did not originate in gay men. AIDS is not a 'gay disease.' Nor is it God's punishment on homosexuals. (This I have never understood. Why would God need to punish them if they are going to hell anyway? Isn't hell the ultimate punishment?)

Another significant point that the verbal drive-by for God raised was the issue of a Catholic/Christian identity. From the mission statement to college policies, Avila's catalog states that Avila values diversity and its expression,

respects the worth and dignity of each individual, fosters development of the whole person, is committed to the continual growth of the whole person, and a policy prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation.

So the million dollar question then becomes what exactly does the Catholic identity mean, and who defines it?

Several years ago I traveled to Washington to participate in the March for Women's Lives. En route I spent 12 hours with a busload of women from St. Louis with big banners identifying themselves as Catholics for Choice. A friend of mine has a book titled: *Lesbian, Gay and Bi-sexual Catholic Handbook*. A Catholic nun has authored a book about lesbian nuns.

So I am confused when I hear people use the Catholic/Christian identity to justify their hate and intolerance. That's not an identity that I want to be associated with. Adding to the confusion are the actions of some faculty members.

I have it on good authority that students in one class, that met the same night, were refused permission to attend the panel discussion. Word is that some students went to the discussion anyway and the students who remained in class were rewarded with extra credit points and a longer break period.

In contrast, another class was given extra credit for attending the discussion and writing about the experience.

While I do not think that I can change someone's religious convictions in an opinion column, I do believe that I can serve to remind people that while Avila boasts of a Catholic identity (still to be clarified) not everyone at Avila is Catholic or even Christian, just like it is out in the world. Additionally, there are nearly as many different interpretations of the Bible as there are people to interpret it. And finally, if unable to express kindness when a sin or sinner is perceived, wouldn't the Catholic/Christian thing to do be to at least refrain from recreating a hell-like experience here on earth for those so obviously damned.

I have a stanza from a favorite poem that I recite in the face of discord. Perhaps it will serve some of you as well.

Lament For A Wavering Viewpoint
by Phyllis McGinley

Ah, snug lie those that slumber
beneath Convictions roof.
Their floors are sturdy lumber,
their windows weatherproof.
But I sleep cold forever
and cold sleep all my kind.
Born nakedly to shiver
in the draft of an open mind.

STUDENT SENATE NEWS

by **SARAH BERKBIGLER**
contributing writer

Well, the Jell-O was flying at the Spring Fling Carnival. The Senate would like to thank everyone who participated in our carnival event. Hopefully, the Senators will stay a little cleaner when we stucco, or paint, Dr. Ben Meade's house. Meade outbid the other guests at this year's Steer Dinner and has bravely asked Senate to paint his house.

After washing the Jell-O out of their hair and before decorating Meade's house, the Senate has been deliberating on serious issues involving the student body. Members of the Student Activity Fee Board had to stretch and cut funding for next year's organizations due to decreased enrollment. Senate is pondering ways to increase available funds for next year's activities.

During the Senate's regular meeting time at 4 p.m. today, April 22, an open forum will be held on the recommendations of

the Strategic Plan's Co-Curricular Commission for new extra-curricular activities.

Recent inquiries by students on issues of security have speared the interest for Senate to host a Security Forum. On April 26, from 5:15 to 5:50 p.m., we will hold a Security Forum in the Whitfield Center. Avila's security officers will be present to describe the security measures currently being provided by the college and to answer questions. This will be a wonderful opportunity for you to meet the security officers.

On Tuesday, April 27, at 4 p.m., Senate is challenging other student organizations to a friendly game of softball. Come support your senators and enjoy a little comic relief.

As the semester draws near exam time, Senate is aware that stress levels are rising. As Senate's gift to you we are preparing a stress-relieving activity for the week of exams. Stay posted.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Scheduling Blues

Dear Editor,

The concern I have here at Avila is course scheduling. Some courses are only offered once per year. It is very hard to take all the classes you need with such limited choices. It has

been very frustrating at times trying to schedule all the classes I need with the limited selection available.

I just thought I would bring this to your attention. I'm sure there are other students who feel the same way I do.

Janie Vogl

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